So far, 52 number of refrigerated transport vehicles, 159 grading/ packing centers, 75 pre-cooling units and 424 cold storages have been assisted under the programmes/schemes implemented by NHB.

In addition to above, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), an organization under the Ministry of Commerce, has initiated the following programmes to reduce post harvest losses:—

(i) Integrated Programmes for pre and post harvest management;

(ii) Preparation of post harvest manuals in regional languages to educate farmers/growers;

(iii) Promotion of pack house concept in the production areas including cold chain linkage right from farm to the consumer; and

(iv) Vapour heat treatment experiment to control fruit flies in horticulture produce on pilot scale.

Strengthening the infrastructure for foodgrains

2757. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any strategy, backed up with adequate investment, to strengthen infrastructure relating to foodgrains, horticulture, floriculture, meat poultry, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how these aspects are proposed to be addressed in the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Scheme are being implemented by the Government of India for development of infrastructure and input availability for agriculture and allied activities including foodgrains, horticulture crops, floriculture and animal husbandry. Several major initiatives have been taken in the recent past to

accelerate the pace of development such as introduction of the Macro Management Scheme, preparation of common guidelines for Watershed Development programmes, creation of a Watershed Development Fund with a corpus of Rs. 200 crore, launching of a Technology Mission for the Integrated Development of Horticulture in North-Eastern States, introduction of a Scheme for Seed Crop Insurance, establishment of a Seek Bank, measures for increasing the availability of farm credit, introduction of a subsidy linked credit scheme for construction/modernization and expansion of cold storages and storages for horticulture produce, expansion of the corpus of the Rural Infrastructure development Fund, launching of a Market information Network and promotion of value addition in agriculture through excise exemption and other interventions.

(c) Strategy for the Tenth Five Year Plan is being formulated by the Planning Commission in consultation with concerned Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India and State Governments and also expert working groups/steering groups.

Value of agricultural production

†2758. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made an assessment of value of production of total agricultural products during 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the total value of agricultural products produced during each of the above years; and

(c) the names of the States where agricultural products of maximum and minimum value were produced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The total value of production in the agriculture and livestock sector has been assessed upto the year 1999-2000. The total value of production in the above two sectors for the years, 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 were Rs. 505335 Crore and Rs. 535810 Crore respectively.

(c) The latest year for which the State-wise estimates of value of production are available, is for the year 1998-1999. The value of agricultural and livestock production was the maximum in the State of Uttar Pradesh and minimum in the State of Sikkim during the year 1998-1999.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.